

Attachment 2:  
Project Descriptions of DNRP's 2015 Parks Levy – Regional Open Space Acquisition Proposals

**WRIA 8: Upper Bear Creek Waterways/Paradise Lake NA Addition (Tom Beavers, Basin Steward)**

<b><i>PL Request</i></b>	<b>\$425,000</b>
<b><i>CFT Request</i></b> <i>(CFT match status)</i>	<b>\$250,000</b>
<b><i>Subtotal: CFT + PL Request</i></b>	<b>\$675,000</b>

<b><i>Total Project Cost</i></b>	<b>\$850,000</b>
<b><i>Funding Already Secured</i></b>	\$175,000 2014 CFT
<b><i>Additional Funding Sought</i></b>	None
<b><i>Will current funding request allow project completion?</i></b>	Yes

***Project Description:*** Two primary targets: (1) Acquire easement on 20 acres of land as part of ongoing acquisitions from one landowner, adding to Paradise Lake Natural Area in upper reaches of Bear Creek. (2) Acquire two long-term Waterways priority parcels (~9 acres) adjacent to Upper Bear Creek Natural Area.

This project continues to implement the Waterways 2000 report and the WRIA 8 Salmon Conservation Plan. It seeks to acquire key parcels for the protection and conservation of riparian habitat, floodplain, habitat-forming process areas, and adjacent wetlands as outlined in the two Plans. Further, the project will contribute to the protection of water quantity, water quality, and aquatic habitat in the Bear Creek basin.

**Target #1:**

The Stevens property, located at the headwaters of Paradise Lake/Bear Creek (north focus area on the site map), has been a County focus for over 15 years.

Applicant completed Phase 1 of this acquisition by securing a purchase and sale agreement with this landowner for an easement on the parcel that lies immediately north of the target property. This proposal is Phase 2 of the acquisition, continuing the transactions with this landowner.

Acquisition will secure public access on the pipeline to meet the Parks Levy access requirement. Landowner is also willing to grant pipeline access to the public on the parcel on which we've already secured an easement.

**Target #2:**

Two parcels approximately 9 acres that are immediately adjacent to Upper Bear Creek Natural Area. This property is a priority in the WRIA 8 Salmon Conservation Plan and were acquisition priorities in the Waterways 2000 Report (1995). This project protects the best remaining habitat in reach 14 of Bear Creek. These properties important provide Chinook and Coho rearing habitat. They are hydrologically connected to Bear Creek through open water channels.

The properties are adjacent to a King County Natural Area. King County Parks is currently controlling invasive plants on the County property and acquisition of these properties will provide better access to the County's existing property. The owner is interested in having the property preserved in perpetuity. He does not want to see either property further developed.

***Habitat Benefit:*** Protect Bear Creek and Paradise Lake by keeping the headwaters in forest use and preserving Bear Creek corridor and associated wetlands further downstream.

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***Recreation Benefit:*** The easement would allow limited public access on the pipeline corridor. The fee-owned properties further south may offer a better access point to the existing King County Parks property in this location (though access needs to be sensitive to environmental constraints).

***Plan Priority:*** This project is identified as a priority in the WRIA 8 Chinook Conservation Plan and the Bear Creek Waterways 2000 program.

***Parcels included in Scope:***

Priority parcel: 052606-9042 (19 ac); 0826069033 & -9024 (~9 ac).